(a) whether Government has received a proposal for constituting a Media Commission and forming a Central Media Council of Newspapers and News Agency Development, which will work for the development of small or medium newspapers and literary magazines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government, so far, in this regard;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to form a permanent pay fixation machinery for newspapers and magazines which will take timely decision regarding pay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The issue of setting up of Media Commission was raised at one of the forums. Initial suggestions/comments have been called for from various media units. However, a final view in this regard is yet to be taken.

There is no such proposal for forming Central Media Council of Newspapers and News Agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government constitutes Wage Board, as and when necessary, for the purpose of fixing and revising rates of wages in respect of working journalists under the 'Working Journalists Act, 1955'.

Price of gas purchased by NTPC

†2747. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has finally decided to purchase the gas produced at Krishna-Godavari D-6 basin at 4.2 dollar instead of 2.34 dollar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of power generation will get affected as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the estimated increase in cost of power generation and whether the increased cost will be recovered from the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) NTPC, with the objective of getting gas at the most competitive price, went for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for sourcing of gas for its expansion projects at Kawas (1300 MW) and Gandhar (1300 MW) and placed Letter of Intent (LOI) on RIL, evaluated to be the lowest Techno-Commercially acceptable bidder, for supply of gas at US $ 2.34 / Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) for 17 years. Subsequently, RIL sought major changes in Gas Sale and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Purchase Agreement (GSPA) in the form of Limitation of Liability and RIL did not sign the GSPA. Therefore, NTPC filed a suit against M/s RIL in Bombay High Court on 20.12.2005 for specific performance of the contract. The matter is at present sub-judice.

As far as Gas supply for NTPC's existing Gas Based Stations is concerned, NTPC has agreed to take the gas as approved and allocated by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) at US$ 4.2/MMBTU except for its existing Kawas and Gandhar projects. NTPC has signed GSPA without prejudice to its suit in Bombay High Court against M/s RIL.

(c) and (d) The variable cost of power (at delivered price of gas of US $ 3.30 / MMBTU based on commodity price of US $ 2.34 / MMBTU) works out to be Rs.1.07/Kwh. The variable cost of power (at delivered price of US$ 6.67/MMBTU considering price of gas as US $ 4.20/MMBTU (land fall price) as fixed by Govt of India for KG D-6 gas) works out to be Rs.2.17/Kwh. The difference in variable cost of power works out to be Rs.1.10/kwh (Rs.2.17 -Rs.1.07/kwh). NTPC's tariff is determined by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). As per the Regulation for fixing the Tariff under the Electricity Act 2003, the fuel cost is a pass-through to beneficiary States/UTs who in turn have realize this from the consumers.

Under-achievement of power capacity addition targets

†2748. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plans have been formulated for additional power generation capacity under the five year plans to provide balanced pace to development in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the additional power generation capacity could not be achieved as per the target set in each of the five year plan from Eighth Five Year Plan to Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government has identified the reasons for not achieving the targets and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Electricity Plans are formulated for additional capacity generation of power under national Five Year Plans and accelerated development of the power sector. The Electricity Act, 2003, requires the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to prepare a National Electricity Plan once in five

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